PARDE): (a) 15 (fifteen) full blown cases of AIDS have so far been reported in India and 56970 persons amongst the high risk groups have been screened for AIDS infection upto the end of 15.10 87 of which 145 have been confirmed to have AIDS infection.

(b) Certain sections of the society such as foreigners, people suffering from sexually transmitted diseass, drug addicts, prostitutes etc. belonging to the high risk category, are subjected to AIDS Test.

(c) Details of the 15 cases are as under:—

Indian National	—	9	(including one female)
Non-resident Indian from U.S.A.	—	1	
Foreigners	—	5	

Out of the 9 Indian Nationals, all had succumbed to the disease except one who is presently under treatment. The non-resident Indian has gone back to U.S.A. Out of the 5 foreigners 3 have gone back to their countries, 1 has died and the remaining one is under deportation.

As no specific treatment is available, the cases are treated with supportive and symptomatic therapy with appropriate chemotherapeutics aents and antibiotics.

DTC bus routes from Vasant Vihar, New Delhi

493. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether government are aware that Delhi Transport Corporation (D.T.C.) has given a number of new bus routes to various colonies of Delhi/New Delhi during the last one year;

(b) whether government are aware that in spite of large scale new allotments of government flats in Vasant Vihar, New Delhi, neither any new bus routes has been sanctioned nor frequency for any bus route has been improved so far by the D.T.C.;

(c) whether it is a fact that new bus route from Vasant Vihar, is available till date for Okhla, Lajpatnagar, Jheel Krishnanagar, Noida, Punjabi Bagh, Tilak Nagar, Janakpuri, Uttam Nagar etc.; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when government propose to start some more D.T.C. Bus route in that areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes.

(b) Loading surveys carried out by Delhi Transport Corporation from time to time revealed that the existing services are adequately meeting the transport requirements of the commuters of Vasant Vihar.

(c) Due to various operational constraints it is not possible for the Corporation to connect each and every colony with direct bus services. Commuters are advised to avail of change-over facilities available at points like R.K. Puram and Dhaula Kuan.

(d) There is no such proposal.

Expansion and modernisation of Vayudoot

494. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand and modernise the Vayudoot services and make it an independent organisation; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Subject to availability of aircraft capacity, development of infrastructure and economic viability of operations, Vayudoot has plans to

airlink 41 new stations in its immediate phase of expansion. With a view to augment its fleet Vayudoot is evaluating various forty seater aircraft available in the market.

There are, however, no plans to change the status of Vayudoot to an independent company.

Sub-standard medicines in the Unani Dispensaries of C.G.H.S.

495. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the shortage of medicines in C.G.H.S. Unani Dispensaries and supply of sub-standard medicines to patients through such dispensaries;

(b) whether it is a fact that order for supply of medicines goes much to the small companies in comparison to reputed companies, if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government do not have any machinery to test quality of the medicines before they are purchased and after they are received in the C G.H.S. Stores in bulk before distribution to the patients;

(d) whether Government propose to set up any machinery to ensure adequate supply of standard medicines and from reputed firms like Hamdard etc. in future, who do not indulge into malpractices while making Government supplies; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (e) There is no shortage of medicines and no sub-standard drug has been detected in C.G.H.S. Unani dispensaries.

The purchase of Unani medicines is made on the recommendations of the Purchase Advisory Committee which genrally accepts the lowest offer confirming to the specifications irrespective of the status of the company. The organoliptic test method is followed by the Purchase Advisory Committee before purchasing the medicines and accepting the supplies.

Private courier service

496. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Private Courier Service is running parallel to Indian Postal Service both for carrying letters within the country and as also for foreign countries;

(b) how many such Indian companies are operating in India, and nature of control the Government exercise over these companies with regard to their tariff, security etc.;

(c) whether these companies are cutting into the revenue of the Indian Postal Services;

(d) whether instances have come to light, about the misuse of the service for unethical purposes like smuggling etc.; and

(e) whether similar foreign courier service companies are operating in India and if so, details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) It is a fact that Private Courier Services are being run in India. However, they cannot run parallel services to the Indian Postal Service for carrying letters within the country in as much as carrying of letters is the monopoly of the Government of India under Indian Post Office Act. As regards letter mail for foreign countries, since incidental services like collection and despatch are involved within India the provision of the Indian Post Office Act are attracted, if the letter mail are booked by Private Couriers.

(b) This Ministry has got no information regarding the number of Indian Courier Companies operating in India. This Ministry does not exercise any control over these companies regarding their tariff, security etc. The information is being collected from the Ministry of Finance.